

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 11942 181137Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
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O 181032Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4353  
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 11942

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT CARTER), NI  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: SCHEDULE

REF: (A) STATE 248024, (B) STATE 248158

1. SUMMARY. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY BY OPENING OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 19 IN LAGOS WHETHER THE EMBASSY CAN INFORM THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT AN ABBREVIATED PRESIDENTIAL PROGRAM IN KANO ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26 WOULD BE FEASIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR MET WITH AMERICAS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MUSA MORNING OF OCTOBER 17 TO DISCUSS SCHEDULE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT HERE. MUSA SAID THAT A HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE OF THE FMG WILL HAVE A LENGTHY MEETING REGARDING THE VISIT ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19 AND THAT HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE SCHEDULE WITH US UNTIL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21. WE ARE SENDING BY IMMEDIATE SEPTTEL THE SCHEDULE WE ASKED HIM TO USE ON A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

3. REGARDING REFTTEL B, PARA 4, WE ARE NOT CLEAR ON REASONS FOR REJECTION OF KANO VISIT. AMBASSADOR EASUM UNDERSTOOD FROM BALEWA  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 11942 181137Z

THAT FMG 'SET GREAT STORE' ON SUCH A VISIT TO NORTH. FACT THAT KANO FIGURES SO PROMINENTLY IN THE SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY BALEWA CLEARLY SUBSTANTIATES THIS STATEMENT. AND SUGGESTS THAT OBASANJO IS MUCH INTERESTED IN KANO VISIT.

4. IN OUR EFFORTS TO NORTURE OUR BLOSSOMING RELATIONSHIP WITH NIGERIA, WE SHOULD BE SENSITIVE TO THEIR NEEDS IN THEIR STRUGGLE

TO MAINTAIN POLITICAL STABILITY. PERHAPS THE GREATEST OF THESE NEEDS IS TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC BALANCING ACT IN FACE OF NORTH-SOUTH REGIONAL AND TRIBAL RIVALRIES WHICH ARE MIRRORED IN THE INTERNAL RIVALRIES OF THE SMC. FMG OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO KANO IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD.

5. OTHER ADVANTAGES WOULD ACCRUE IF KANO COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PRESIDENT'S ITINERARY. KANO WOULD PROVIDE THE PRESIDENT WITH EXPOSURE TO THE SABELIAN ENVIRONMENT, THUS BROADENING HIS NIGERIAN VISIT TO INCLUDE PERCEPTIONS OF DROUGHT ENVIRONMENT WHERE MAJOR USAID PROGRAMS ARE IN EFFECT. IN ADDITION, HE WOULD SEE THE HISTORIC AND CURRENT ROLE PLAYED BY THE SABEL AS CROSSROADS FOR NORTH/SOUTH AND EAST/WEST COMMERCE. FURTHERMORE KANO WOULD ENABLE FMG TO INTRODUCE THE PRESIDENT TO THE TRADITIONAL AND PRESENT CONTRIBUTION OF THE HANSA NORTH TO NIGERIAN CULTURE AND POLITICS.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SCHEDULE PROPOSED BY AMBASSADOR BALEWA (REFTEL A) GOES TOO FAR IN PLACING KANO AT THE CENTER OF THE ENTIRE VISIT, THUS SKEWING THE WHOLE VISIT MORE TOWARDS THE MOSLEM NORTH THAN IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE USG. HOWEVER, WE THINK IT IS POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE TO INCLUDE KANO AS A SHORT STOP AFTER THE PRESIDENT LEAVES LAGOS. THE KEY ITEMS ON THE PROPOSED NIGERIAN SCHEDULE WERE THE VISITS TO THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE AND THE EMIR'S RESIDENCE.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 11942 181137Z

PALACE. WE BELIEVE THESE VISITS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN AN HOUR AND FORTY MINUTES, INCLUDING TRAVEL TIME ON THE GROUND. SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD BE BETTER PLACED ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON THAN SATURDAY MORNING, SO AS TO PERMIT THE CORRESPONDENTS TO FILE COPY IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, THE PRESIDENT COULD DEPART FROM STATE GUEST HOUSE AT 0700, LEAVE LAGOS AT 0800, ARRIVE KANO AT 0920, VISIT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE AND THE EMIR'S PALACE, AND DEPART KANO AT 1100.

7. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE NIGERIAN COMMITTEE WHICH MEETS ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 TO DISCUSS THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE KNOW WHETHER OR NOT A KANO VISIT IS COMPLETELY OUT. THE DEPARTMENT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED TO INFORM US BY IMMEDIATE BUT NOT NIAC CABLE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, WHETHER WE CAN INFORM AMBASSADOR MUSA EARLY THAT MORNING THAT AN ABBREVIATED KANO SCHEDULE ON SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 26 WOULD BE POSSIBLE. WE HAVE TOLD MUSA THUS FAR THAT WASHINGTON ACCEPTANCE OF ANY KANO SCHEDULE APPEARS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL.  
WYMAN

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